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Shipyard repair to NEI gets underway

The City has begun work to replace a 2,300-foot section of the Northeast Interceptor (NEI) wastewater pipe on Shipyard Boulevard.

Work began on Monday with delivery of sections of the pipe, which is 30 inches in diameter, along with site preparations. The portion of pipe being replaced is located between Partridge Road and Stonewall Jackson Drive on Shipyard Boulevard. The project, estimated to cost \$898,000, is expected to be completed by November.

In April, the state Division of Water Quality imposed a moratorium of additional flows in the NEI beginning May 27, 2006 until the Shipyard repair is complete and/or any other critical repairs identified in the assessment are made.

The NEI is the pipeline that experienced two major spills in 2005. The assessment of the NEI has been underway since February. Testing to determine the thickness and strength of the nine-mile-long pipe is almost complete. Aside from the Shipyard Boulevard section of pipe, no other areas tested so far have been found to need immediate repair.

However, one area on Greenville Loop Road near Shinwood Drive is being recommended for repair in the next few months. Some corrosion has been found in a section of pipe, thought to be 200-500 feet long, that will be repaired as a precautionary measure.

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For more information, contact City Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.